



Support Domestic Workers!
Pages 4 & 5



the

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON pipeline

By MOKGWETSI SIZWE CHAPMAN, age 14



Students protest zero-tolerance policies and the school-to-prison pipeline.

Children with learning disabilities, African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be subjected to harsh disciplinary actions and to “zero-tolerance” policies, starting in elementary school, thus setting the stage for higher rates of incarceration (detention in prison) among them when they get older. Rather than getting the support they need to succeed, children with disabilities, African Americans and Latinos are more likely to be conditioned to go into correctional facilities—a process and civil rights issue called the school-to-prison pipeline.

“Multiple studies confirm that students of color receive harsher consequences than their white peers for committing the same offenses,” the Center for American Progress reports.

Today, more than 2 million people are in prison, most of whom are people of color,

compared with only 325,000 people in 1970, according to Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*.

Disciplinary actions for bad behavior include counseling, mentorship and detention. But under the “zero-tolerance” policies, students are more likely to be suspended or expelled (kicked out of school) and police officers may get involved. According to the newspaper *Liberation*, “There are more police departments with armed officers in the schools, which in turn use surveillance cameras, metal detectors, drug-sniffing dogs, and random searches of students.” When kids are punished severely and kicked out of school often, they are less likely to complete their studies. They start to be seen as troublemakers. Once they go to prison,

the road stops there because many doors of opportunity close once someone enters the criminal justice system.

Students who act up may come from communities where there is poverty, violence and drugs. Some students may have family members who have been to or are still in prison. Students may be bored and do not understand what they are doing. Dr. Rodney Washington, a former juvenile corrections officer and currently chair of the Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department at Jackson State University in Mississippi said, “[Students] don’t [all] learn the same way and they need [a] curriculum that supports their learning styles.” He emphasized the importance of making school fun and engaging for kids, and making sure they have enough guidance and mentorship in school.

In September, students in Chicago dressed as zombies to draw attention to the ways lives are destroyed by harsh disciplinary policies.

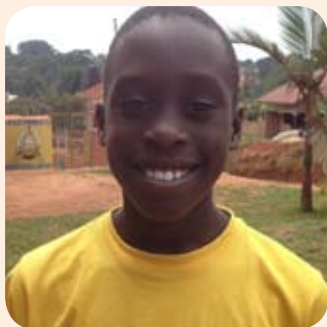


DID YOU KNOW?

More than half of youth in juvenile detention have not completed eighth grade and two-thirds of those leaving formal custody do not return to school.
Source: Cory Roy-Stevens, author of *Overcoming Barriers to School Reentry*.

Nearly 100,000 children and teens are in police custody (or supervision) nationwide. People of color are four times more likely to be held in custody than white youths.
Source: Booth Gunter and Jamie Kizzire, authors of *Breaking the School-to-Prison-Pipeline*.

Fifty percent of all prisoners are African American, 30 percent are white and 20 percent are Latino. Most are in prison for nonviolent crimes.
Source: Nancy A. Heitzeg, professor at St. Catherine University and author of *Kids Behind Bars: Where’s the justice in America’s Juvenile Justice System?*



Meet... Favor from Uganda

Name: Onyinge Favor

Age: 9

Language Spoken: English and Luganda

Parents' Jobs: Both are drivers

Favorite Food: Matoke (steamed green bananas)

Favorite Animal: Leopard

Favorite Subject in School: Religious education

Favorite Activity: Hide-and-seek



Uganda at a Glance

Population: 35,873,253

Languages Spoken: English and Luganda

Geography: East-Central Africa

Religions: 42% Roman Catholic, 42% Protestant, 12% Muslim

Current President: Lt. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni

History: When colonial Britain established the boundaries that would become Uganda, they brought together people from different backgrounds and cultures. Uganda gained its independence from Britain in 1962, but because Uganda was a mix of different cultures, the people could not form a working government. After much warfare, human rights abuses, an unknown number of deaths and the fleeing of thousands of refugees, President Museveni took over in 1986 and was able to bring some stability and economic growth to Uganda.

Learn a little LUGANDA

Ki kati Hi (informal)

Oli otya? How are you?

Gyendi I am OK

Siiba bulungi Have a nice day

Profile and vocabulary courtesy of Paul Falzone and C.I.A. World Factbook

15

That's the average age of one half the population in Uganda.

Source: United States Election Project, George Mason University

nation&world

Chicago Strike: a "Teachable Moment" for Kids

By GEORGIA REED-STAMM, age 9

Children returning to public schools in Chicago, Illinois, this fall were in for a new experience—and it wasn't just new friends, a new teacher or even a new school. On September 10, just a few days into the new school year, their teachers decided to go on strike.

In all, 26,000 teachers, who are members of a union, walked off their jobs in protest against longer hours and cuts to school budgets. It was the first strike in Chicago public schools in 25 years. The strike meant no school for seven days for 350,000 Chicago kids.

For one first grader, Madeleine Reed-Horn, the strike made her think hard about what her new teacher needed in order to do her job.

"I thought it was a teachable moment," said Diana Reed, a former public school teacher and Madeleine's mother. She explained to her daughter why the strike was important for the teachers, even if it wasn't easy on families. "I supported the teachers, because in order to do

their jobs, they need respect," said Ms. Reed.

The mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emmanuel, a Democrat, wanted to make changes in the school system.

He wanted a longer school day (7 hours for elementary and middle school and 7.5 hours for high school). He also wanted to grade teachers according to how well kids do on standardized tests.

Teachers wanted to get paid more if they had to work longer hours. They also said that standardized tests are not the best way to judge how good they are as teachers, because a lot of things affect how well kids do on tests. When their families are poor and they don't have enough food to eat, for example, children won't do well on tests no matter how good the teacher is.

In the end, the teachers and the



Children and parents march with teachers in Chicago on September 15.

FLICKR/CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION

Mayor worked out a compromise. The teachers agreed to a longer school day, but they got extra pay for their extra work. Also, tests will count for grading teachers, but not as much as the Mayor wanted. The teachers went back to work on September 19.

So who won?

Most experts say teachers did exactly what Diana Reed described: the strike taught people about what teachers need to do their jobs.

Karen Lewis, the president of the Chicago Teachers Union, told CNN, "I think this has been an opportunity for people across the nation to have their voices heard, and I think we're moving in the right direction."

Occupy Strikes Debt

By JALEN CROSTEN, age 12 and TOM ENGLISH

Occupy Wall Street, or OWS, is a people-powered movement that started in September last year in Manhattan and has spread to over 100 U.S. cities and across the globe. OWS wants to fight back against the richest 1 percent of people who are writing the rules of an unfair global economy.

OWS opposes all forms of injustice and harassment, especially those coming from Wall Street. OWS isn't just about protest, it's also about direct action. OWS has made a strong impact already. The actions in this, the second year, are more focused. Occupy is concentrating on student debt. Many of our older brothers and sisters have to borrow money to go to school, and, because of the bad economy, they often cannot find jobs (53% of recent graduates), and fall behind in their payments and end up owing more money, often taking many long years to pay back, if at all. When someone can't pay back a loan, it is called a default; about 20 percent are in default.

About 36 million people in the U.S. have student loans, totaling about \$1 trillion. Even if a person



OCCUPYWALLSTREET.ORG

Occupy Student Debt is a website that collects stories from people trying to deal with their debt; knowing that you are not alone is the first step to changing something in society together.

declares bankruptcy, the loans don't go away. Occupy thinks this is unfair. One of the things Occupy has also suggested is debt refusal; if everyone refuses to pay, perhaps the holders of the loans will listen.

Occupy has had some impact in Congress. The Student Debt Forgiveness Act of 2012, proposed by Hansen Clarke, would prohibit interest rates over 3.4% and forgive most loans after 10 years.

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Just contact IndyKids! Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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Go to indykids.org to see the complete list of donors.

Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a) Uganda ____ | d) Pakistan ____ |
| b) Democratic Republic of the Congo ____ | e) London ____ |
| c) South China Sea ____ | f) Chicago ____ |
| | g) Coney Island ____ |
| | h) California ____ |
| | i) Greece ____ |



Are You a Bully?

By NATALIJA MARSHALL, age 10

One out of ten kids in elementary school (grades one to four) get bullied as often as every day, according to the anti-bullying website Coast Kids. A big portion of bullying occurs in areas such as the cafeteria, the playground, on school buses and in the hallways. Harassment through the use of cell phones, social media and the internet – or cyber-bullying – is another way kids are picked on. According to the National Education Association’s nationwide study of bullying, bullies tend to target kids who are non-conformists, different-looking, overweight, disabled, immigrants or who seem unlikely to defend themselves.

Bullying involves excluding someone from a group, threatening, name calling, hitting, kicking, spreading rumors, influencing relationships in a negative way and doing so in an intentional and repeated manner.

Why do kids bully in the first place? There are many reasons why kids choose to bully. Catherine Bradshaw, a psychologist at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, says “[Bullying] provides these kids with a sense of power.” Sometimes, family issues, social issues or their own personal history may make kids feel like they don’t have power or control. Harassing other kids gives the bully a sense of power.



A “Bully Free Zone” sign, at a school in Berea, Ohio



DOKTORY/WIKIMEDIA

There are many ways to try and get out of a bullying situation. Websites such as the National Crime Prevention Council and eHow advise kids to stay strong, walk away from the bully and tell an adult. Kids can tell the bully to stop, but experts advise not to fight back with mean or cruel words because someone could get seriously hurt, either emotionally or physically. Kids who are shy might even try to tell a joke to lighten up the mood and possibly make new friends.

Negotiation: Key to Greek Debt Crisis

By THEO YANOS, age 10



Debt and lending money are complicated issues. When people hear of the “debt crisis” affecting countries such as Greece, they wonder, “Why doesn’t the U.S. have the same problems?” That’s because the U.S. keeps raising the “debt ceiling.” It also has its own currency and can print money, unlike Greece. So, should Greece go back to its old currency, the drachma?

It’s not that easy. The Greek debt crisis is the result of the European Monetary Fund (EMF) and European Central Bank (ECB) demanding budget cuts and pay cuts of up to 30 percent in civil servants’ salaries as a condition of new loans to Greece. Civil servants are public workers who work for the government and whose salaries are paid for by taxpayers. For example, school teachers, librarians and police who work in the public sector are civil servants.

The main Greek political parties have different ideas on the best way out of the crisis: Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK; a center-left party, like the Democrats in the United States) is working with New Democracy (a center-right party, like the Republicans). The two parties have agreed on many rounds of austerity, or cuts in spending, even though



FLICKR/SUNSET PARKERPIX

Violent protests erupted in Greece in 2010, when the government decided to save money by laying off civil servants and by cutting public spending. Protests continued, mostly peacefully, in 2012 because many Greeks lost their jobs and cannot find work. In February 2012, Occupy Protesters in New York City held signs to show support for the Greek people.

they are worried about cutting too much. PASOK believes that negotiating is the only way to stay in the European Union, or EU, and the Eurozone (countries in the EU that share the same currency, the euro).

Syriza is a radical left party that believes that Greece should not make any cuts, but still wants Greece to maintain its economic ties with the rest of Europe. Elati, from Syriza’s youth group, says: “The answer [is] where we cooperate with the other countries that face the same debt problems.”

newsbriefs



Pakistan Factory Fires

By KANONI WILDER, age 11

On September 12, two large factories caught fire in Pakistan, killing more than 300 workers. Upon investigation it was found that many of the deaths were caused by unsafe conditions in the factory similar to conditions of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire in the United States. Like in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, the Pakistani factory owners locked all the doors and windows of the building so all the women could do was work. Witnesses say they heard two large blasts before the building began to fill with smoke. “If my son does not return, I will commit suicide in front of the factory,” one woman shouted before news cameras, according to *The New York Times*. Investigators have not found the cause of the fire.

No Blood for Ivory



By ELIYA AHMAD, age 11

In September, in Garamba National Park, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 22 elephants were slaughtered for their tusks, worth millions of dollars in ivory, *The New York Times* reports. Both old and young elephants were left dead on the savannah with nothing missing but their tusks. Every year, 23 tons of tusks are smuggled around the world, 70 percent of which goes to China according to *The New York Times*. That’s more than 100 elephants killed for ivory, despite measures taken to prevent it. “We have enacted corresponding laws and regulations, and made significant efforts in enforcing them,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said. Illegal ivory poaching has been compared to the “blood diamond” trade in which people get killed over mining and selling diamonds.

Dispute in the South China Sea

International tensions rise in the baby blue of the South China Sea over who owns the Spratlys, Paracels and Scarborough Shoal – island chains rich in oil, natural gas and seafood, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*. The Philippines claims the Scarborough Shoal and sent its biggest warship to defend it, the BBC reports. The United States reacted by sending in more troops and ships to the Philippines in April, according to *The New York Times*. Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and China are competing over the Spratlys and Paracel islands. In the north, China sent two military ships near Senkaku archipelago, Japan claims, causing another stir.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Fight for Their Rights

By THEO YANOS, age 10 and GEORGIA REED-STAMM, age 9



CA DOMESTIC WORKERS



CA DOMESTIC WORKERS



FLICKR/CONFETTI

In August, people rallied for the rights of domestic workers in Sacramento, California.

Domestic workers in New York won their bill of rights in 2010 but nannies, housekeepers and elder caregivers around the United States are still fighting for basic labor rights. Allison Julien, a nanny and organizer for Domestic Workers United and Rachel McCullough, a domestic workers advocate, spoke with *IndyKids* reporters about why domestic workers need help.

Many domestic workers are verbally, mentally and physically abused, working long hours for low pay. Sometimes, they are given very little time off.

Originally from Barbados, Julien worked as a nanny in New York for more than 20 years. “When I got the flu from children I take care of, I took two days off,” said Julien. “But my employers said, ‘why did you take those days off?’ And they refused to pay me.”

The New York Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights gave some rights to the workers. It established an eight-hour work day as a legal day’s work. Workers are allowed one day of rest per week. After one year of employment, workers are entitled to three paid days off.

Advocates are trying to pass bill of rights laws in other states and further improve the law in New York.

In California, a bill was almost passed but Governor Jerry Brown vetoed it on September 30, 2012.

Jennifer Barrera, who works for California’s Chamber of Commerce, protested the Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights. As she told the *Huffington Post*, the domestic workers’ bill would have put a “burden onto working families who are struggling, I’m sure, to already afford a nanny.”

McCullough, an organizer for Jews for Racial and Economic Justice and who was cared for by a loving nanny as child, disagrees. She said, “I think that the Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights provides very necessary minimum standards. For the first time ever, the bill recognized this work as real and valuable work. I think that’s a pretty big deal!”

Kids have been helping by joining organizations and even advocating for their own babysitters.

“I don’t think it’s fair that some babysitters aren’t treated fairly,” Donna Schneiderman, a girl who had a babysitter for 10 years, said in a testimony. “I think it’s important for kids to know about domestic workers’ rights because a lot of the kids I know have babysitters and they should be aware of how some babysitters are being treated.”



What Kids Can Do to Help Support the Domestic Worker Campaign:

By ZIPPORAH CRUZ, age 10

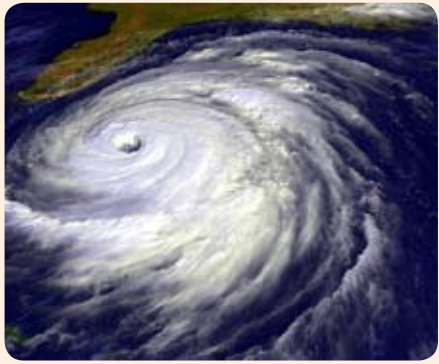
Kids can help domestic workers by writing to their local congressmen directly, asking them to help support the Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights in their state. Another way kids can help is by participating in the annual “A Wish for the Holidays” letter writing campaign, spearheaded by the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Their goal this year is to send 20,000 letters to congress asking for them to support laws that help protect the rights of domestic workers. Kids can also join #BeTheHelp, a national campaign started on Twitter to show support for domestic workers’ rights. Also, talk to your friends and teachers to help spread the word about supporting the rights of domestic workers.

For more information and ideas you can go to www.domesticworkers.org/campaigns.



“New Day New Standard” is a public art project and interactive hotline created by REV and Domestic Workers United that informs nannies, housekeepers, elder caregivers and their employers about the landmark Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, passed in New York State in November 2010.

Storm Science



Flickr/Kakela

On October 29, the one thousand mile-wide “Frankenstorm” known as Hurricane Sandy made landfall in the Northeastern United States, bringing with it powerful winds and flooding, which knocked out transportation, electricity, water and heat for millions of people in New Jersey, New York and beyond. The storm was more intense because of global warming, which has caused higher sea levels, as well as warmer waters. Warmer ocean temperatures produce unusually strong storms and higher sea levels, leading to more flooding from storm surges.

Art or Animal Abuse?



Flickr/CrookRW

At the end of a 23-week exhibit at the Tate Modern museum in London, 9,000 butterflies are dead. While on display for 3,000 visitors, many were crushed under people’s shoes or died from the unnatural environment. Animal rights organizations are criticizing the exhibit, while the museum defends it. The artist, Damien Hirst, has done past exhibits with animals, including putting dead sharks and cows in tanks filled with chemicals.

Earth Made Moon



Flickr/Penguinhush

This October, the journal *Science* published a new theory about our moon’s origin that would explain why planet Earth and the moon have many things in common. Two Harvard scientists believe that Earth’s moon is actually a piece of our planet that flew off after a giant collision around five billion years ago with something the size of Mars. At the time of the collision, Earth was rotating so fast that an entire day passed by in under three hours.

45

That’s the number of gallons of sugar-sweetened beverages, such as soda, fruit punch, sweetened tea and sports drinks an average American person drinks per year. Source: *Health Affairs*, January 2012

culture&activism

How Do We Know?

By KALANI CHEN-HAYES, age 9,
JALEN CROSTEN, age 12,
and NATALIJA MARSHALL, age 10



Middle school kids may say that they know certain facts: The Sun is a star. Breathing converts oxygen to carbon dioxide. Wolves are more afraid of people than people are of them. How do middle school kids know that these are facts? Chances are someone told them, and they believed it. Maybe a science teacher told their students that the sun is a star and that humans inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide when they breathe. Or perhaps an expert said that wolves are more afraid of people. However, just because someone said something is true, does not always mean that it is true, and being told something is true is only the beginning of the process of asking more questions and collecting evidence to figure out the facts. This process is called an “inquiry.”

Aside from being told what is and is not a fact, middle school kids can learn by investigating, testing, asking questions and looking at evidence and data. One



Flickr/RDECOM

Forty percent of middle school students learn by watching. They call up images from the past when trying to remember according to the University of Illinois.

way of getting evidence about the fact “the Sun is a star” is by collecting data, researching online, going to the museum or reading books.

Another way kids learn is by arguing or debating. Thoughts can change when we disagree because other people might have different perspectives, thoughts or ideas and have collected data, research, facts, etc., that are different than yours.

Elizabeth Jewett, a researcher at Teachers’ College at Columbia University, studies how middle school kids learn. The goal of her research is to help educators develop students who can think creatively and critically. Middle school kids who can think creatively and critically tend to be better at solving problems, her research shows.

“Oversized Drinks Equal Oversized People”

By ZIPPORAH CRUZ, age 10



Matt Seifman

Various beverage sizes at a 7-11 convenience store. This article’s headline comes from a statement made by its author at an *IndyKids* editorial meeting.

The New York City Board of Health has recently approved a ban on oversized drinks. This ban will make restaurants stop serving drinks that are more than 16 ounces. Some businesses, like 7-11 and convenience stores, will not be affected. However, some restaurants, like Burger King, will have to make some serious changes, as their smallest drink is 20 ounces. Also affected by the ban are movie theatre concession stands, delis and food carts. So, although these drinks will be banned in many places, they will still be served somewhere. The ban has many everyday New Yorkers giving different opinions. Alex Donato, a manager at the Times Square McDonald’s, said that “[the ban] is a good thing for people and it will help people...”

According to *CBS News*, this ban is a result of long-standing warnings from health advocates and doctors of a link between obesity and sugar-sweetened drinks.

There have been few well-controlled studies to examine this issue, or confirm Mayor Bloomberg’s

theory. One study that supports Mayor Bloomberg’s theory was done by Dr. David Ludwig, the director of the New Balance Foundation Obesity Prevention Center at the Harvard-affiliated Boston Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Ludwig did a study that involved 224 overweight ninth and tenth graders who were sugary beverage drinkers. The students were divided into two groups; the first group had their sugary drinks swapped for non-caloric drinks like water, flavored water and diet drinks for one year. The other group did not receive non-caloric drinks but received a \$50 gift card to use at a supermarket for four to eight months. This study affirms Mayor Bloomberg’s reasoning that simply swapping drinks promotes good health: the group who had their drinks swapped gained four less pounds over the course of the yearlong study than the group who received the gift cards.

The ban will take effect as of March 2013, and by June, those who do not comply will be fined.

"If you were Mayor Bloomberg, would you approve the soda ban?"

By ZIPPORAH CRUZ, age 10



I would use taxing as a way to stop people from drinking sugary drinks and look at other ways other than a ban.

Okayjah Diaz, age 12



I would not vote for this ban even though I don't drink a lot of sugary drinks, but I think people should have the right to choose their own drinks.

Yesenia Hernandez, age 10



I would focus on helping the children who are obese by holding their parents accountable for their unhealthy habits through fines and or rewards.

Zenai Smith, age 10



If I were Mayor Bloomberg I would definitely ban sugary drinks because they are unhealthy and make people sick. I totally agree with the ban and recommend it.

Nolan Hidaka, age 9



I would offer rewards to all children and adults who exercise. I would also offer low-cost or free exercise programs to help the obesity problem. Banning something only makes people find other ways to continue their unhealthy habits.

Jacquoreya Lane, age 9

Someday, you could be an **Artist and Writer**, just like **Marisa Jahn**

By KYLIE FREYMAN, age 9



What exactly do you do and hope to accomplish?
I work as an artist, writer, activist and educator. I hope that what I do invites people to think about an issue in a new way.

How many languages do you speak? What are they?

English, Spanish, French and a second grade level of Esperanto [a language created by L.L. Zamenhof].

As a kid, did you believe that you could accomplish anything?

I never really thought about it in this way, but I do tend to not focus on obstacles as much as diving right in. I love a good challenge!

At what age were you thinking about starting this career?

I grew up in an immigrant family and the arts. I was always prioritizing art-making in my studies and activities. [However,] I feel like I had to work twice as hard to make ends meet; I've worked side jobs doing construction, carpentry, waiting tables, bookkeeping, a bunch of admin jobs and more. It has not been an easy path to take but extremely rewarding.

What kinds of stories inspire you? What issues are important to you?

Ones that pertain to the livelihood and well-being of wom-

en, immigrants, youth and low-wage workers.

What do you write about? What do you explore in your art?

I take on issues in my art and writing that take on the well-being and livelihood of low-wage workers, immigrants and youth. I try to do so using the best of my imaginative faculties/skills so that I can enliven an issue or provide a new way of looking at it!

How does a kid become a writer or activist?

By trying! Listen to yourself about the issues that get you really, really mad. Then, based on your strengths, aptitudes and interests, look at the different ways that you might influence or change the outcome of that problem. Work with groups or people that are already engaging in that issue to inform yourself. Then dive on in!

Please describe one of the biggest challenges that you faced and how you overcame it.

Ah – letting go of what others think that you should do and doing what you think is an important story and an important way to tell that story. Listen to myself, be honest with myself and others about this issue, tackling an issue without censoring myself, and then — failing, failing again in order to improve, get feedback, improve. [Do] not be afraid to fail. But as they say, fail quickly.

For the full interview, visit indykids.org



ASHLY COVINGTON

Marisa Jahn is an artist, writer and the executive director of two nonprofit media organizations: REV and People's Production House.

letters

These are comments that people left on our website. Check out more responses to our articles (and leave your own) at indykids.org.

The article "Fresh Food or Fast Food" was interesting, because we did an experiment [in school] about healthy food in our community to know if there was more fast food or healthy food in our neighborhood. Also we did a virtual tour on the computer to see if we had more healthy food choices.

Alejandro Soto

In response to "Your Turn: Why Do You Wear A Headscarf?" I'm not judging these women in particular, but I believe you should feel strong and proud of your beliefs, and that should be a reason why you wear the Hijaab. You don't wear it for others, you wear it for yourself. Assimilating and conforming to societal standards should not be your goal. They should go back and remember why they chose to wear it, not why they decided to remove it.

Andres

In response to the article "History of Black America's Voting Rights" by Sizwe Chapman, Mr. Chapman presents a concise yet detailed history of the struggle of African American persons to live free in

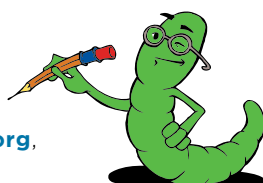


the "land of the free." I particularly like the timeline as it illustrates the perpetual struggle of our country and communities to define who we are as a people. As a country that values freedom for its citizens and individual rights for all, we will continue to grapple with the balance of these ideologies as our society becomes increasingly diverse. I appreciate the "Tell us what you think" questions and offer my sentiments. Children grow up and they will own a right to vote. We must teach them to appreciate knowledge of our past, create enthusiasm for participation and instill responsibility for stewardship through voting and community service. We need to help them understand the necessity of struggle to prevent the unthinkable consequences of indifference. Thank you, Mr. Chapman for sharing this well-written article on a matter that will always be important.

Corrie Odom

In response to your article "Where the Candidates Stand in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Election," I think that Obama is right about lowering taxes for the poor, and I think it's stupid that Romney wants to drill in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. I think that Obama is also right to make health care easier to get.

Savannah Davis



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GARY MARTIN

